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Land Grabbing: Agbamuche Petitions DPP Against Anglican Church

By Kunle Awosiyon

Trouble is gradually brewing between the family of the former Attorney General of the Federation Michael Ashikodi Agbamuche (SAN) and Our Saviour Anglican Church, Surulere over an alleged land grabbing by the church.

Agbamuche's son, Chief Michael Agbamuche who accused the church of illegally occupying his mother's landed property on 77 Adebola Street, Surulere said that he had taken a peaceful path to settle the matter with the church but the church authorities had preferred the legal route. Agbamuche who had already served eviction notice to the officiating priest, Rev Abiodun Oderinde in line with the Lagos State public notice of January 29, 2024 regarding illegal conversion of residential areas to business and worship centres, warned that the church's continuous stay in 77 Adebola Street, Surulere would be at a own risk.

This is coming as Dr. Babajide Martins, the Lagos State Director of Public Prosecutions has revealed that 7,500 petitions concerning land grabbing were received in February alone.

While seeking a legal way to reclaim his mother's property, the church is also set to meet the family in court as the Bishop of Lagos Mainland, Akinpelu Johnson, has asked Agbamuche to meet with the Church's legal officer over the issue.

He said, "Only the church legal officer can react to the allegation."

In one of the numerous letters that Agbamuche sent to the parish, the church's general

secretary simply replied: "Please report this at the Bishop's office in Lagos."

Also, the registrar of the Lagos mainland diocese sent a WhatsApp message to Agbamuche saying that he had read all his correspondences and had observed some errors.

As he put it "I have read all your correspondences and they are all appreciated. You see, as long as you continue to erroneously hold the position you are holding, it is a challenge to engage with you. That property was purchased by God and I will subtly refer you to Numbers 23 verse 19.

"We are an orthodox church that is well rooted in doctrines and faith in our God. Don't wish that away. On the other hand, our Bishop is not a roadside mechanic. He is, and rightly too, a very humble servant of the Most High and deserves every respect. God bless you sir."

At present, Agbamuche had accused Our



Saviour Anglican Church, Surulere of violating the land grabbing laws of Lagos state by occupying his bequeathed property illegally without offering any consideration for it. In the letter dated February 1, 2024, he requested the Church to

provide the names and address of their solicitor to whom court processes would be served. But this was ignored.

"Regrettably, I not only failed to persuade the bishop, but he proceeded to block my line and made himself

incommunicado which meant that I had no choice than to reach out to you as his supreme head rather than turning to the police or litigation. "I refer to the police because there is a taint of near criminality and evidence of misfeasance, culpable

negligence and incompetence on the part of the lawyers retained by the diocese at all material times underlying the circumstances surrounding this property owned by my late mother in her lifetime.



Land Grabbing: Agbamuche Petitions DPP Against Anglican Church

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My late mother after 30 years of service for the Lagos state government from the 1950's when she returned from her studies abroad, joined the Lagos medical services in the 60's and was opportune to take advantage of the relative ease of acquiring property in Nigeria, especially in Lagos those happy days.

"She, therefore, secured the mortgage that enabled her to acquire the property known as 77 Adebola Street, Surulere, using only her income as a civil servant and after years of such service she fully paid off the mortgage and decided to retire and return to her hometown in Akwa Ibom state."

According to Agbamuche, she decided to put the property up for sale, found an estate surveyor to market the property and set a reasonable price consistent with the value at prevailing market rate at that

time.

This registered surveyor, he said, was able to get several interested buyers including the Church.

"Whilst I was not party to the discussions between herself and the church officials, I was duly briefed by my late mother and she handed over to me her only copy of the deed of mortgage before she left Lagos to Eket, Akwa Ibom.

"It was at that period I got a hint of misfeasance in the entire way she was handled by both the church and the so-called surveyor as it turned out that she was never actually paid by the church directly," he explained.

He stated that the church did not pay the owner of the property till date, an indication that the transaction was invalid.

Agbamuche said despite drawing the attention of the Bishop of Lagos Mainland, Akinpelu Johnson to these facts, he has refused



to do anything about it and rather.

In 2016, Lagos state enacted an act to curb land grabbing. In a bid to tackle the unscrupulous

activities of land grabbers in the State, the Special Taskforce on Land Grabbers under the State Ministry of Justice was created.

The law is not limited to forceful occupation of the land, it covers those who may have used fraudulent way to commit the offence.

According to the Commissioner for Justice and the state Attorney General, Mr. Lawal Pedro, SAN, the law prohibits forceful entry and illegal occupation of landed properties, as well as violent and fraudulent conducts in relation to landed properties in the State.

Pointing out that resolving land-grabbing issues is of great importance to the Sanwo-Olu Administration, Pedro stated that the menace of Land grabbers has led to conflicts on lands in the State which has resulted in the destruction of properties and even loss of lives.

The Attorney-General emphasised that the law on land grabbing that was enacted in 2016 still stands regardless of one's status in society. He explained some of the provisions of the Lagos State Property Protection Law, 2016 and in particular, Section 2(1) of the

Law, which prohibits the use of force or self-help by anyone to take over any landed property or engaging in any act inconsistent with the proprietary rights of the owner of any landed property in Lagos.

Meanwhile the state government is considering revising its laws on land grabbing in response to evolving circumstances, as noted by the Coordinator of the Lagos State Special Task Force, Rukayat Shomade.

She said this when the Lagos Assembly Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights paid her a visit.





Health District III Collaborates With Epe LG To Accelerate Fight Against Malaria

In a concerted effort to combat the pervasive threat of malaria and champion equitable healthcare, the Lagos State Health District III and Epe Local Government, joined the commemoration of this year's World Malaria Day with a renewed call for collective action to combat the disease. Under the theme: "Accelerating The Fight Against Malaria For A More Equitable World", the Permanent Secretary, Health District III, Dr. Monsurat Adeleke stressed the importance of collective responsibility shared by

all stakeholders in the relentless battle against malaria. Highlighting the imperative of proactive measures, Adeleke underscored the critical role of maintaining clean environments, advocating for the widespread adoption of proven interventions such as Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLIN), urging prompt testing and treatment for those exhibiting malaria symptoms. She stated that as part of efforts to commemorate the Day, the Health District and Epe Local Government distributed Long

Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets, Insecticides, and free malaria medications to Epe residents to ensure tangible protection and immediate access to treatment for those in need. Adeleke revealed that the State Government is deploying multifaceted strategies directed towards promoting preventive measures against the spread of Malaria as a testament to the government's dedication to safeguarding the health and well-being of its citizens. The event, according to the Permanent Secretary, serves as a rallying point for members of the

community within Epe and its environs to unite in solidarity and

also underscores the importance of collective action in

achieving a malaria-free future.



DSVA Trains Patrons, Matrons of Kings, Queens Club in Education District III

In keeping with the commitment to establish the Kings and Queens Club in all schools across the State, the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) recently trained school counsellors and teachers, drawn from Education District III who would serve as Patrons and Matrons of the clubs.



The Executive Secretary of DSVA, Mrs. Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi said the essence of the training was to prepare the participants as patrons and matrons of the Kings and Queens club in their respective schools. The training which was for selected counsellors/teachers from selected Government and Private schools under Education District III I, comprising Eti-Osa, Epe, Ibeju-Lekki and Lagos Island, took place at the Conference Hall of Education District III premises. During the course of the training, facilitators

from the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency taught series of topics such as Gender-Based Violence, Gender equality and parity, Femininity, Masculinity, Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Health, Anger Management and Child's Rights Law, amongst others. Besides the 30 selected counsellors and teachers from both private and government schools, there were representatives of the District, including the District Counsellor, Dr.

Rita Keinka at the event. The training ended with participants being empowered with new knowledge and ready for the upcoming eight weeks engagement of selected children who would at the end of the engagement, be inducted into the Kings and Queens Club in their respective schools. Also present at the event were the directors and members of staff of the Office of Education Quality Assurance who were on ground to provide necessary support.

LASUTH Celebrates Retired Members of Staff

The Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) on Friday celebrated its esteemed retirees in a heartwarming ceremony held at the hospital premises. The event, organised by LASUTH management, served as a poignant acknowledgment of the dedication and commitment demonstrated by the retirees throughout their years of service.

Amidst an atmosphere filled with gratitude and nostalgia, LASUTH management, along with colleagues, friends and family members, gathered to celebrate the retirees who have devoted their time and expertise to the hospital's mission of providing exceptional healthcare services.

The Chief Medical Director, Prof. Adetokunbo O. Fabamwo expressed sincere appreciation to God on behalf of the retirees, just as he acknowledged and commended the retirees for their commitment to excellence that has left an indelible mark on the hospital.

The CMD recounted some of the accomplishments the hospital has attained over the years, highlighting advancements in terms of clinical services, infrastructural

development and the establishment of five training schools, which include the recently inaugurated Caregiver Academy.

Additionally, he announced that retirees can now access free medical consultations and medications at the hospital Staff Clinic and Pharmacy.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Lagos State, Dr. Olusegun Ogboye, represented by Mr. Semi Martins, Deputy Director of Administration and Human Resource, Ministry of Health, extended his good wishes to the retirees for their dedication to service and contributions to LASUTH and the health sector of Lagos State.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Director of Hospital Administration and Human Resources, Mr. Jelili Babatunde Oyekan commended and applauded the retirees for their relentless commitment and efforts to the hospital during their years of service, noting that it has

impacted the lives of many in Lagos State and beyond.

Prof. Adebowale O. Adekoya, the Director of Clinical Services and Training, while congratulating the retirees, emphasised the importance of enrolling in the Lagos State Health Insurance Scheme, imploring them to take advantage of the scheme and access quality healthcare services.

Dr. Mutiu Afariogun, who spoke on behalf of all the retirees, appreciated the hospital management and the Lagos State Government for putting together such a befitting ceremony in acknowledgment of their years in service.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of gifts to the Retirees as an appreciation for their meritorious contributions while in service. The event also provided an opportunity for colleagues and well-wishers to convey their best wishes to celebrants.





Transformation Leadership: ALA Pays Courtesy Visit To LJLA

The Senior Programme Manager for Governance and Arts at African Leadership Academy (ALA), Amanda Chembezi, recently paid a courtesy visit to the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy (LJLA) in a bid to foster collaborative avenues and share insights on transformative leadership initiatives. During her visit, Chembezi engaged with the Executive Secretary of LJLA, Mrs. Ayisat Agbaje-Okunade while exchanging ideas and experiences aimed at the leadership development of the Fellows of the two institutions. The engagement provided a platform for both institutions to explore potential collaborations and partnerships aimed at furthering their shared goals of nurturing leadership excellence among young change-oriented individuals. "The exchange of ideas and experiences



between Lateef Jakande the African Leadership Academy is invaluable", Chembezi remarked.

On her part, Agbaje-Okunade reiterated the commitment of LJLA to collaborate with vital stakeholders to advance the mission of grooming transformative leaders across Nigeria and Africa as a whole. "This collaboration would highlight the significance of fostering cross-cultural understanding and the shared commitment of empowering young individuals with the skills and mindset needed to drive positive change in their communities and beyond", she added.

LJLA Fellows Complete Four-Day Lagos Business School Training

As part of efforts to strengthen their leadership proficiency and understand the intricacies of economic management in the public sector, Fellows of the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy (LJLA) recently completed a four-day executive course facilitated by top Academia from the Lagos Business School, Pan-Atlantic University. The four-day curriculum featured the complexities of governmental budgetary processes, economic policy formulation and a robust toolkit of indicators and analytical methodologies, where Fellows honed their skills in forecasting economic trajectories with precision. A pivotal aspect of the programme was the exploration of the McKinsey 7S Framework, a strategic management paradigm designed to evaluate



organisational efficiency, thereby arming Fellows with insights into assessing the alignment of strategy, structure, systems, skills, style, staff, and shared values within their respective institutions. Additionally, it is also expected to lay the groundwork for strategic adaptability and sustainable progress for the academy fellows. The Executive Secretary of LJLA, Mrs. Ayisat Agbaje-

Okunade emphasised the importance of the Four-day Executive Course as a means to equip Fellows with the skills and mindset necessary to effect positive change in their respective fields, by embracing the principles that promote economic prosperity. "The Fellows of the Academy have now been properly trained by Lagos Business School to foster economic prosperity, as they return to their roles within the public sector", she added.

MINISTRY

Creativity, Innovation Drive National Success-Commissioner

The Commissioner for Women's Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA), Mrs. Bolaji Cecilia Dada has identified creativity and innovation as essential drivers of national success, fostering growth, adaptability, and competitiveness globally. Dada stated this in her keynote address at the 2024 World Creativity and Innovation Day organised by the Ministry with the theme; "INSPIRE" (Step Out And Innovate) and held in Ikeja recently. The Commissioner noted that creativity empowers societies to adapt to changing circumstances, develop new technologies, and find innovative solutions to social, economic, and environmental challenges. She said, "All over the world, nations that have not defined their direction have been known to experience stagnation due to

resistance to change, especially when they don't get a buy-in from the people". Dada said that the Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu administration, being development-oriented, saw the need to make creativity and innovation cardinal principles in its forward-looking T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Development Agenda. The Commissioner further disclosed that 4,592 beneficiaries have graduated from the 19 vocational Centres of the State in the last year. The Guest Speaker of the occasion, Mrs. Ayodele Maji, in her lecture tasked students of the state skills acquisition

centres to collaborate, network and choose role models and mentors. A beneficiary and graduate of one of the state skills acquisition centres at Mushin, Mrs. Caius Ijeoma Blessing appreciated the Lagos state governor and admonished beneficiaries to take advantage of the various empowerment programmes to become self-employed and reliant. Present at the event were students of the various skills acquisition centres. Highlights of the celebration were a fashion parade, and a display of products and skills, among others.



Otunba Oshungboye Confirmed LAHASCOM Chairman

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)

Otunba Richard Oshungboye has been appointed as the Chairman of the Lagos State House of Assembly Service Commission (LAHASCOM), following approval by the Lagos State House of Assembly. The appointment,



which was announced in a letter dated April 29, 2024, was required to satisfy the void left by several months of the Commission's acting chairmanship. Echonews reports that before being appointed as the Special Adviser on Budget and Economic Planning to the Speaker of the Lagos State House of

Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, in 2015, Oshungboye served as Commissioner 1 in the Commission and had 28 years of experience in the banking industry, 11 of which he spent as an expert in human resources. Oshungboye was born on April 14, 1959, and has

been involved in state politics since 2015. The Commission's duties include hiring staff, fostering growth and development, enforcing discipline, developing and putting into practice policies that guarantee effective and efficient service delivery in the State Legislature.

Lagos Assembly Intensifies Oversight On Department, Agencies

By Felix Kuyinu

A Committee set up by the Lagos State House of Assembly has embarked on an oversight to Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDA) in the state to ensure progress and accountability for the state's growth. The Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights, Public Petitions and LASIEC informed that the visits to the agencies is one of the core responsibilities of the Assembly and directed by the Legislative House Speaker, Hon. Mudashiru Obasa. The exercise which is to run till May 8 is also put together in order to establish a cordial relationship between the Assembly and the MDAs for the progress of the State, as uttered by the Chairman of the

Committee, Hon. Oladipo Ajomale. Leading the team, Ajomale said that the the findings and recommendations during the visit would be deliberated on by the Assembly members, hence, leading to necessary actions taken to curb any anomaly as well as improving on the strengths of the MDAs. During the meeting with the Taskforce on Land Grabbers, the Coordinator, Lagos State Special Taskforce, Shomade Rukayat, explained that the department oversees the issue of land grabbing in the State. Listing some challenges of the Special Task Force to include court adjournments and



social/political interference, Rukayat called for synergy with MDAs while urging for a full upgrade of the Office to an Agency for better efficiency. She also expressed optimism that the Land Grabbers Law of Lagos State would be reviewed to meet new developments. At the Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency, the Executive Secretary, Mrs. Titilayo

Vivour-Adeniyi, explained that the agency is an organisation committed to ensuring total eradication of sexual and gender-based violence in the State. She said, "Our mission is to provide sensitive services to victims of domestic and sexual violence while promoting healthy relationships as we strive to enhance our coordinated community

response to domestic and sexual violence in Lagos State and indeed in Nigeria. "The inadequacy of running cost, issues with decentralized services and sub-offices as challenges faced by the agency. " We also seek for the establishment of more designated Police stations to facilitate reporting and investigation of cases, increased capacity

during weekends. Vivour-Adeniyi further requested for an amendment of the Law guiding the agency to make it possible to criminalize spousal battery and decentralisation of operations. Ajomale thereafter, directed that all requests should be put in writing and submitted to his Office for further scrutiny. The Committee head also said the team will visit the Citizen Mediation Centre (CMC) as well as the Office of the Administrator-General and Public Trustees, Office of Public Defender, and Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission (LASIEC) to complete the exercise. Other members of the committee during the visit included, Hon. Kehinde Joseph, Hon. Ajani Owolabi, and Hon. Bonu Solomon.

80-Year-Old Protests At Lagos Assembly Over House Demolition

By Felix Kuyinu

An octogenarian has led a mob to the Lagos State House of Assembly to stop the state's Attorney General from discontinuing a case of demotion of her house.

The complainant, Bello Muniat, on Tuesday, and other protesters, the members of Kumeifo Oba Olaribigbe in Lagos Island submitted a petition over the matter at the Legislative Complex urging the Assembly to appeal to the attorney-general to allow justice to prevail.

The 80-year-old who accused one Nollah Sikiru of the demolition of their family house said, "We

are here for a protest because of what is happening between the family of Kumuyifu Akinyigbe family with the Attorney-General of Lagos State, Mr Lawal Pedro, and Sikiru Nollah.

"Our prayer is that we want the House of Assembly to stop him not to strike out the case in court because if he does, there will be unrest in the area.

"We are begging the attorney-general to leave our case alone and let justice prevail on the issue.

"The civil side is in the high court before Justice Ogunjobi, while the criminal side against Nollah Sikiru is the one that the

attorney-general wants to strike out.

"We are just wondering how the attorney-general that said the accused person has a case to answer suddenly turned back and said Nollah has no case to answer," he said.

Bello disclosed that the Director of Prosecution in the Ministry of Justice did their findings and got to know that the the accused had a case to answer, according to the report of the Department of Public Prosecution (DPP).

"The case was charged to court in February, so we have been in court for the first, second and the third adjournment but the Nollah has refused to show up in court, then the judge had no

alternative than to issue a bench warrant against the accused person.

"After the bench warrant was issued the Attorney General of Lagos State had the gut to say that he didn't send the prosecuting panel to collect a warrant of arrest for the accused person.

"We are now wondering what is happening and how can he do that. He was the one that sent the DPP officials and they came and said the accused person has a case to answer.

"Now that the case is going on, the attorney-general allegedly filed a notice of withdrawal of the case," she said.

"We wrote a petition to

the Lagos State Control Building Agency (LASCBA) to know whether they were the ones that gave the order to demolish their house ,but the agency said they did not know anything about it.

"The Attorney-General wrote to them in another letter attached to the one he was using to strike out the case that the agency said they were the one that asked Sikiru to demolish the family building".

The Deputy Majority Leader of the House, Hon. Adedamola Kasunmu, calming the situation said the lawmakers will look into the matter and provide

necessary steps in bringing the laws of the state in it.

"We have heard your complaint you have brought to us because there is nobody that will labour and want another unknown person to destroy what the family has laboured for over the years," the lawmaker said. "So, because of this, we will receive the petition you have brought to us and we will present it to the Speaker and I want to assure you that the family will get justice at the end of the day.

"I appreciate your family for the peaceful protest and I urge you to go home peacefully and avoid any trouble so we could continue to remain on the right side of the law.

KOSOFE

Kosofe 2025: Ogunlewe Gets Nod For Second Term

The Legislative Arm of Kosofe Local Government Council, led by Mr. Idowu Oluloro, has officially endorsed Mr Moyosore Adedoyin Ogunlewe for a second term, showing unity and support for his leadership.

The Executive Arm, comprising all Supervisory Councillors and Special Advisers, also joined in endorsing

the chairman for a second term in office.

Echonews reports that the Chairman expressed gratitude for the support and emphasized his dedication to ongoing projects in the local government.

Furthermore he reassured the endorsing groups of his commitment to fulfilling promises and

highlighted significant projects still in progress.

The endorsements signify confidence in his leadership and vision for the community, setting the stage for a promising future under his continued guidance.

These endorsements serve as a strong vote of confidence in his leadership as the elections approach.



Man Plays, Owes N40,000 At Bet9ja Shop

By Felix Kuyinu

A man identified as Ogwuche Desmond is facing prosecution for betting and owing the sum of N40,000 at a betting shop. The 29 year-old was arraigned at the Surulere Magistrates' Court sitting in Lagos, on Tuesday. According to the prosecutor, Insp Courage Ekhueorohan, Desmond, who resides

at NO 16, Moshalashi Street in Ketu Lagos was charged of trying to obtain under false pretences in the act which took place on April 23 at a Bet9ja shop located at NO 15, Bode Thomas Street, Surulere Lagos.

He pleaded guilty to the charge. Ekhueorohan said that a staff at the bet9ja shop, one Novah Jerry, played the bet for

Desmond to the tune of N40,000 after the suspect promised to pay after playing.

However, the suspect couldn't pay up his accrued debts as promised, promising to make the payment in coming days.

The offence, the prosecutor said, contravenes Section 315 (1) (b) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

According to reports, the

offence attracts 15 years imprisonment on conviction.

The Magistrate, Oluwatosin Otitoju, ordered the remand of the 45-year-old defendant until May 10 for a review of facts of the case and sentencing.

In another court proceeding, the Badagry Magistrates' Court remanded one Sunday Adewoye for raping a 22-year-old

lady.

Adewoye, a cleric, is facing charges of unlawful sexual penetration and rape.

The prosecutor, Insp Ayodele Adeosun, told the court that the accused committed the offences on April 17 at 5.00 p.m. on Joseph Dosu Way, Badagry.

Adeosun said Adewoye had sexual intercourse with the 22-year-old lady without her consent, in contravention of Sections

260 and 263 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

The Magistrate, Patrick Adekomaiya, did not take the offender's plea. He said he needed advice from the state Director of Public Prosecutions, DPP.

Adekomaiya ordered that the defendant should be kept in a custodial facility pending the advice.

He adjourned the case until June 3 for mention.

Five Okada Riders Arraigned In Court For Assaulting Policemen

By Felix Kuyinu

Five suspects have been arrested by the Lagos State Police Command for assaulting police officers at Ikorodu area in Lagos

The accused commercial tricyclists were charged with conspiracy, commit to felony, causing bodily injury, rioting and causing breach of peace in the area.

According to the Police Prosecutor, Haruna Magaji, the quintet: Damzuru Musa, Khalid Yaya, Shaaban Haruna, Bashiru Yinusa, and Tijani Musa allegedly committed the offences on March 25, 2024, at 7:00 am.

Magaji stated at the Yaba Magistrates' Court where suspects were arraigned that a distress call was put through to the the Ikorodu Police Division that the alleged victims identified as Inspector Adebisi Michael and Sergeant

Idako Yusuf, all attached to Mopol 2, Ikeja, were under attack from the okada riders at the Igbodu Junction, Ijede in Ikorodu.

The prosecutor said that the okada riders were protesting over a matter in the area. They saw the police officers and proceeded to throw stones at them, physically assault them, and burn a motorcycle belonging to one of the officers.

Following the call, the Divisional Police Officer led a team to the scene and discovered that the service pistol of one officer was stolen, and a motorcycle belonging to one of them was set ablaze.

Magaji added that statements from eyewitnesses and the assaulted officers serve as evidence against the defendants. He said the alleged offences

violate Sections 411, 162 (1) (d), 172, and 341 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State 2015.

The defendants pleaded not guilty to all four charges.

Magistrate Olatunde Adefope set the bail at N500,000 each, with two sureties in like sum. He ruled that the sureties must be gainfully employed with verifiable addresses.

Adefope adjourned the case till May 22, 2024.



BADAGRY

Cleric Faces Jail Term Over Rape In Badagry

By Saheed Afolabi

The Badagry Chief Magistrates' Court remanded Sunday Adewoye, a 45-year-old cleric accused of raping a 22-year-old woman.

Mr Adewoye, whose address was not provided, is accused of unlawful sexual penetration and rape.

The Chief Magistrate, Patrick Adekomaiya, did not hear Adewoye's plea. He stated that he needed

advice from the state director of public prosecutions.

The chief magistrate ordered that the defendant be held in a custodial facility pending the advice.

He adjourned the case until June 3 for mention.

Earlier, the prosecutor, Inspector Ayodele Adeosun, informed the court that Adewoye committed the crimes on April 17 at 5.00 p.m. on Joseph Dosu Way in

Badagry.

Mr Adeosun stated that Adewoye engaged in sexual intercourse with the 22-year-old woman

without her consent, in violation of Sections 260 and 263 of the Lagos State Criminal Law, 2015.



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Sanwo-Olu's Aide Charges Youth On Positive Use of Technology

The Special Adviser to Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Media and Publicity, Mr. Gboyega Akosile, has urged Nigerians, particularly the youth, to embrace technology and use it positively for skill acquisition and entrepreneurship.

He said the Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration is committed to empowering the youth, and the government in the last five years has empowered thousands of young Lagosians in different sectors.

Akosile spoke during the Empower Lagos Summit on "Mastering the Art of Business Restructuring and Profitability," organised by Next Big Deal Hub, held at Tolulope Odugbemi Hall, University of Lagos (UNILAG) on Saturday.

He said: "I want the youth to know that the world is changing at a very high speed, courtesy of technology. Technology is changing the world so fast. We have to adopt

technology. But the youth must be responsible with the use of technology.

"They should try as much as possible to use it in positive ways. Let us be responsible and responsive to what the needs of society really are. I believe Nigeria will certainly become a better place in no time."

Speaking on Governor Sanwo-Olu's administration efforts towards the youth in line with the T H E M E S + development agenda, Akosile said: "Lagos State Government has done a lot for the youth, especially in the area of entrepreneurship, skills acquisition, creative industry, technology and innovation.

"Governor Sanwo-Olu also created the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy, where a lot of young Lagosians applied, and 30 of them were shortlisted for the first edition. The 30 of them will be graduating in the next

two or three months.

"We have already begun the process of bringing in the new batch for the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy. These are areas we are using one person, two persons to change the society, courtesy of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu."

Speaking during a panel session, the Special Adviser, Media and Publicity to Governor Sanwo-Olu, Mr. Gboyega Akosile; former Commissioner for Youth in Oyo State, Dr. Seun Fakorode; founder of Guguru Media, Mr. Mautin Olorunleke and CEO of Zeeh of Africa, Mr. David Adeleke, charged youth to develop themselves, maximise social media, collaborate, partner, create value, and be strategic.

The Founder of Next Big Deal Hub, Bukola Jaiyeola, said the programme was organised to empower the youth to support their businesses and expose them to business opportunities they can tap into.



"We want to build entrepreneurs from scratch and scale up already existing entrepreneurs for global vision. We are working with some of the

speakers to train some of the participants that are interested in their area of expertise."

Lagos Tourism Collaborates With Naija Brand Chick For Hospitality



Demonstrating a commendable departure from the conventional approach to governance, Mr. Idris Aregbe, the Special Adviser to Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tourism, Arts, and Culture, has taken the initiative to reach out and forge a groundbreaking partnership with Naija Brand Chick (NBC).

Speaking at a press conference held at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, Alausa to unveil Lagos value-driven partnership with Naija Brand Chick, Aregbe said the alliance between the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, and Naija Brand Chick is designed to significantly amplify the impact of the Lagos Tourism NBC Trade Fair, an event that will serve as a catalyst for the entrepreneurial community in Lagos.

The CEO of Naija Brand Chick, Ms. Nelly Agbogu; CEO, Council of Arts and Culture, Mr. Idowu Johnson; Nollywood producer and actress, Mrs. Toyin Abraham-Ajewole; Executive Secretary of the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF), Feyisayo Alayande, who was represented by Ms. Sherifat Balogun, and other speakers during the press conference expressed their commitment and readiness to partner with the Ministry of Tourism Arts and

Culture for the success of the Lagos Tourism NBC Trade Fair, taking place from June 14 to 16 at Whitestone Event, Ikeja.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mr. Idris Aregbe, said the partnership is about taking the Lagos Tourism NBC Trade Fair to unprecedented heights, adding that the historic event will mark the beginning of a new era in hospitality and trade fair in the State.

He said: "This alliance is not just about cooperation; it's about amplification. It is about taking the Lagos Tourism NBC Trade Fair to unprecedented heights, where it serves as a pivotal catalyst for our entrepreneurial community.

"Under the visionary leadership of Mr. Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, and with the steadfast support of the Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture, we aim for nothing short of excellence.

"Our ambitious goal of N5 billion in sales speaks volumes about our commitment to driving economic growth and prosperity.

"This year's fair will be a convergence of diverse sectors, spanning Lifestyle and Home Fashion and Personal Care, Services and Innovation, Arts and Craft, Adventure and Recreation, Travel and Hospitality, Cultural and

Recreational Attractions. It is a testament to our unwavering dedication to inclusivity and diversity.

"With an anticipated influx of participants and visitors, the fair will provide an unparalleled platform for vendors and entrepreneurs to showcase their offerings, connect with a wider audience, and contribute to the vibrant economic landscape of Lagos."

Speaking further, Aregbe said: "The Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture stands firm in its mission to nurture our rich cultural heritage, promote artistic endeavors, and propel the tourism sector forward as a cornerstone of economic development.

"Together, let us embark on this transformative journey towards a brighter, more prosperous future for Lagos State."

In her comment, Ms. Nelly Agbogu recalled the past edition of the trade fair in the State, which, according to her, took place at Lekki.

The CEO of NBC, who disclosed that entry is free for all Lagos residents for the trade fair, assured traders of adequate security of lives and property during the event.

"We started the programme at Lekki. Today, I am excited, and I am certain it will grow businesses in Lagos. There will be a lot of sales for our business owners. I appreciate Lagos for partnering with us," she said.

Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture is dedicated to nurturing the diverse cultural heritage of Lagos, fostering the arts, and championing the growth of the tourism sector as a pivotal element for economic progress.

Healthy Living: Agoro Tasks Civil Servants With Regular Exercise

Lagos State Head of Service, Mr. Bode Agoro has urged public servants in the State to engage in more exercise to boost their health and be able to live longer.

Agoro stated this at the April Edition of the Walk for Fitness exercise organised for public servants in the state, saying the monthly event was designed to promote quality of life and prevent chronic diseases among the workforce.

He maintained that public servants have to engage in regular

physical activity as a health enhancement measure against several ailments, encouraging those doing it to continue as it has a lot of health benefits.

The Special Guest of Honour and Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab stressed that public servants in the State are now taking their well-being into their own hands, urging them to make the exercise a regular part of their lifestyle.

In her remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Public Service Office, Mrs. 'Sunkanmi Oyegbola, implored the Public Servants to embrace the constant practice of walking for improved health underscoring the belief that health is wealth.

Oyegbola said the walk was to create awareness of the need for regular exercise, stressing that walking was a way of changing their habits and encouraging a healthy lifestyle.

In his health talk, the Director of Health Promotion, Ministry of Health, Mr. Segun Badejo said exercising regularly lowers people's chances of developing diabetes, high blood sugar, high blood pressure, kidney disease, heart disease, stroke and cancer.

Badejo said walking was very crucial to maintaining a healthy weight, burning fats and controlling most diseases.



Lagos Govt Dialogues With Residents on Planning Permit In Ifako-Gbagada



The Lagos State Government has initiated a dialogue between her and property owners in Ifako, Gbagada area, to fashion out a way forward on the subsisting suspension order on Planning Permit in the axis. The Commissioner for

Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Oluyinka Olumide, who spoke during a Stakeholders meeting in the premises of the Catholic Church, Ifako, Gbagada, said that a Suspension order was placed on Planning Permit processing and approvals in Ifako,

Gbagada and surroundings last November due to observed foundation failures and distress on several buildings such as tilting and sinking.

He said that the problem owed its origin to the soil condition of the area, which required a huge

financial outlay to rectify through pilling.

His words: "Years of sand mining activities in the area have affected the soil condition and made it not economically viable to build horizontally, given the enormous resources involved in doing about 35 to 36 metres depth of pilling as required for the area".

He added that the most practicable solution was to encourage multi-storey developments of not less than six floors that would be of many advantages to property owners and residents of the area in terms of adequate returns on investment as well as a safe, organised, livable and sustainable environment.

He stated that the

meeting was living up to its expectations as the government had realised, through valid stakeholders' comments, that it might be necessary to consider those who might want to build to lesser floors, but with the capacity to do the right pilling.

He urged everyone interested in erecting buildings to always check with the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development for the permissible use, height, and setbacks, adding that it was equally necessary to get drainage clearance for those in flood-prone areas while also being mindful of the level of the foundation against the level of the road.

With the Commissioner were the Permanent

Secretary, Office of Physical Planning, Engr. Oluwale Sotire; General Manager, Lagos State Physical Planning Authority (LASPPA), Tpl. Kehinde Osinaike; the lead consultant on Kosofe Model City Plan, Tpl. Ayo Adeniran and other top functionaries of the Ministry.

Landlords, members of community development associations, and human rights activists from Sholuyi, Ifako, and Gbagada participated in the meeting, applauding the effort of the State Government in reaching out with information and calling for more regular engagements.

Flood Control: Lagos Govt Embarks on Removal of Structures on Drainage Setback

The Lagos State Government has said that the ongoing removal of all contravening structures under the System I drainage channel midstream (Odo Iya Alaro) Ojota and Ogudu, will address major flooding issues on the mainland and its environs.

State Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab made this assertion when he led some officials on an inspection tour to the enforcement sites to ascertain the level of compliance by property owners and the extent of work.

He explained that System I was established in 1974 and it is the biggest and widest Primary Channel that defloods the major parts of the mainland which cuts across Ogudu, Ojota, Ifako, Gbagada and Maryland, adding that the flyover bridge coming from Odo Iyaloro will cut across these areas.

Wahab stressed that the Government has been having discussions with property owners/residents since the year 2021 and the

conversation ended in November 2023, stating that contravention notices have been served to owners of buildings lying within 140 metres of System I since year 2021.

"We found out that people have gone back to encroach on the right of way and alignments. Since 2021, we have been engaging the homeowners and residents where the government has been notifying them of impending enforcement without which we cannot abate flooding", he said.

The Commissioner explained that property owners whose buildings fall within the approved 140 metres Right of Way of the channel had been given the option of voluntary compliance for almost three years now.

He added that the government also discovered that while contravention notices had been served and dialogue on a way forward was being explored, some of the

property owners continued with the construction of new buildings that surfaced in the areas now.

He explained that the property owners/residents affected were advised for about three years to voluntarily remove the contravening structures before the state government officials commenced the enforcement but were foot-dragging.

According to him, the conversation ended officially in November last year when they were asked to come forward with their documents and approvals and we found out that most of them do not have any.

He stressed that it has been observed that all the structures on the System I Right of Way have no valid documents from the government as such all the structures will have to be removed.

He stressed that the original dimension was 140 metres before the alignment but the State government is willing to put a human face to the enforcement process.

Wahab charged



Lagosians to respect the State Drainage Master Plan to avoid property demolition insisting that there was no going back on the decision of the state to enforce the law and reclaim Drainage setbacks following the expiration of the notices issued.

He advised residents to always visit necessary Government agencies when doing their land searches, especially the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources to get their Drainage clearance as this will suffice for them in case of any occurrence in future.

The Commissioner was accompanied by the Permanent Secretaries, Environmental Services, Gaji Omobolaji Tajudeen; Office of Drainage Services, Engr. Mahamood Adegbite; MD, LAWMA, Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin; GM, LASPARK, Mrs. Adetoun Popoola; General Manager, LASEPA, Dr. Tunde Ajayi; General Manager, LASWMO, Engr. Adefemi Afolabi and some Directors.

The team also visited Okota, Faseun Bridge System 6E, off Ago Palace Way as the Ministry is set to

commence major maintenance dredging to curb flooding and proffer lasting solutions to waste that usually gets stuck under the bridge.

The Special Adviser on Environment, Mr. Kunle Rotimi-Akodu said the government is determined to find a realistic solution to the issue of flash flooding in every part of the state.

According to him, the world has changed and everyone must put in place various measures to mitigate the adverse effects of global warming and other environmental issues confronting human existence.



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Environmental Hygiene: Lagos Steps Up Campaign To End Open Defecation

The Lagos State Government has reiterated its determination to intensify the use of toilets and good hygiene practices in every community in Lagos.

The Permanent Secretary Office of Environmental Services, Dr. Omobolaji Gaji made this known at the Flag-off of Clean Nigeria: "Use the Toilet" Campaign held at the Ojo Local Government, adding that the programme aims at ending open defecation in Nigeria by 2025.

Gaji, represented by a Director in the Sanitation Service Department of the Office, Mrs. Omoyeni Balogun said the campaign is spearheaded by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, UNICEF, some local and international partners for a holistic approach to eradicate open defecation.

He added that the

Federal Government had set up a National Secretariat for the campaign tagged: "Clean Nigeria: Use The Toilet" to drive the message through the 36 States of the Federation and Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. "Imagine our country Nigeria and Lagos State as a whole where every citizen has access to clean and safe toilet facilities. A Nation where open defecation is a thing of the past, replaced by proper sanitation habits that protect both individuals and communities from disease and contamination", he said.

He said in achieving this feat, there is a need for all to come together as a nation and prioritise the construction of clean and accessible toilet facilities in communities, schools and public spaces, stressing that such effort calls for



educational programmes that raise awareness about the importance of proper sanitation.

The Permanent Secretary averred that the State has been able to cover 10 Local Government Areas/Local Council Development Areas in the Use The Toilet campaign, hoping to cover the remaining 10 before the year runs out. Gaji also informed that

the awareness technique was a driving tool in achieving an Open Defecation Free Lagos, saying the campaign must be people-centred with community engagement through relevant stakeholders while prioritising vulnerable and underserved communities.

He said it is important to point out that the

campaign, despite its successes, has also been confronted with some challenges ranging from no budgetary allocation to a lack of political will, stressing that there is a need for political support from Local Governments to cascade this policy to the people, who are the direct beneficiaries.

The PS said the lack of

access to clean toilets and improper disposal of waste poses significant challenges to public health and well-being and assured residents that the government is set to address the fundamental issues that affect the safety and future of the State. In his remarks, the Chairman of Ojo Local Government,

Hon. Rasulu Olusola said the issue of open defecation is not just a matter of sanitation but a critical public health concern that affects the well-being of all communities.

He said the clean Lagos initiative aims to raise awareness about the dangers of open defecation, promote the construction of public toilet facilities and implement rigorous hygiene practices across the local government.

Olusola, therefore, urged all participants to join hands to ensure a cleaner, healthier and sustainable environment by instilling a culture of cleanliness beneficial to future generations.

EPE NEWS

Why Epe is Losing Its Agricultural Pedigree – Abdulkareem Onakoya

By Mohammed Adekola



Dr. Abdulkareem Onakoya, from the Political Science Department of Lagos State University of Education (LASUED) has provided some of the reasons Epe is losing its agricultural prowess.

Dr Onakoya said during the palliative distribution programme organised by the Concerned Nation Builders Initiative (CNI), "Most of Epe farmlands have been sold to outsiders and realtors for monetary purpose, while the Epe waterways for

fishing have been polluted by dredging." "When we were young, people come from Lagos to buy garri in Mojoda because they believe that Garri Mojoda is a trademark on the garri industry, but I am not sure if we have Garri Mojoda anymore," Dr Onakoya lamented. However, the political science expert expressed satisfaction with the news that the Lagos State Government aims to revoke the license of some real estate owners

and hoped that the State Government's move may help Epe recover some of the lands for agricultural purposes. He seized the opportunity to proffer some solutions to the agricultural problems facing Epe.

The solutions suggested include the utilisation of lands for agricultural purpose, stronger leadership and efforts, and the practice of subsistence farming in people's homes.

Abayomi Okays Quality of Work at Massey Hospital, Others

... As Officials from Ministries of Health, Works Conduct Comprehensive Project Inspections



Lagos State Government is on a mission to overhaul healthcare services with ambitious infrastructure projects aimed at strengthening the capacity and quality of medical facilities across the state. During a recent project inspection tour, top officials including the Lagos State Commissioner for Health, Professor Akin Abayomi; the Special

Adviser to the Governor on Works, Engr. Adekunle Olayinka and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusegun Ogboye, expressed satisfaction on the progress of various medical infrastructure initiatives. They emphasised that the projects, which include the 150-bed Massey Street Specialist Children's

Hospital, the Multi-Level Car Park, Somolu General Hospital, LASUTH Resident Quarters, and Ojo General Hospital, will mark a significant milestone in the state's healthcare advancement agenda. Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, highlighted the transformative impact of the Massey Street Specialist Children's Hospital, stating that it

will redefine paediatric care not only in Lagos but also in Nigeria and Africa as a whole. With its sustainable engineering principles and exclusive focus on paediatric care, the hospital, boasting 150 beds and a multi-level car park accommodating over 300 vehicles, is poised to become a beacon of excellence in paediatric healthcare.

Prof. Abayomi also stressed the importance of revamping Somolu General Hospital to meet the growing population's healthcare needs. The expansion plans, including a 120-bed facility with specialised services and accommodation for medical personnel, reflect the government's commitment to providing accessible and quality healthcare services to all residents.

Regarding the LASUTH Resident Doctors' Quarters, the Commissioner

highlighted its role in enhancing medical personnel welfare and addressing accommodation challenges faced by resident doctors. The 10-story building will provide comfortable living spaces for doctors undergoing specialised training and contributing to the retention of skilled healthcare professionals.

Furthermore, Prof. Abayomi underscored the significance of Ojo General Hospital, which, despite facing technical challenges, is progressing steadily to become a cornerstone in healthcare delivery for surrounding communities. Upon completion, the hospital's 288-bed capacity and extensive staff accommodation will ensure comprehensive healthcare services for residents in the region.

Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Works, Engr. Adekunle Olayinka

commended the dedication of contractors and consultants involved in the transformative projects. He underscored the government's commitment to delivering sustainable and resilient healthcare infrastructure, with a focus on adherence to stringent standards and specifications.

Engr. Olayinka highlighted the importance of effective governance and inter-agency cooperation, particularly evident in initiatives like the Somolu General Hospital project. He reaffirmed the government's dedication to delivering infrastructure of the highest standards through regular inspections and quality assurance measures.

It must be reiterated that the State Government remains steadfast in its commitment to prioritising sustainability and efficiency in ongoing medical infrastructure projects, ultimately aiming to revolutionise healthcare delivery and improve the well-being of its citizens.

Lagos Govt Reiterates Continuous Support For Cultural Festival



The Lagos State Government, through the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, has reiterated the

continuous support of the present administration to promote local cultural festivals across the State. This is part of

strategies initiated to stimulate the indigenous culture, tradition and heritage of Lagosians and attract investors to

various tourist spots in Lagos, The Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Tourism, Arts and Culture, Hon. Idris Aregbe disclosed this in his remarks at the 11th Annual World Egbe festival held recently at Suntan Beach, Lagos. Aregbe, represented at the event by the Chief Executive Officer, Lagos State Council for Arts and Culture, Mr. Idowu Johnson, expressed his satisfaction with the organisation of the festival which attracted more tourists than usual. He reiterated the

commitments of the State Government to continue to support the World Egbe Cultural Festival annually to portray unity amongst people of different beliefs and continue to showcase the ancient heritage of the State of aquatic splendour. The Oba Ariwajoye Fasagbade of Akoko Land appreciated the support of the State Government in ensuring the success of the hosting of the annual event in the past few years, noting that it was a source of

encouragement to the organisers of the Annual World Egbe Cultural Festival. He added that the ceremony was a universal celebration attracting participants from as far as Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba. The Egbe festival witnessed the showcasing and the celebration of the Miss Culture World Beauty pageant. The Zagbeto masquerade dance and Sato drums known to Badagry indigenous cultural heritage were also displayed to enrich the festivities.

Corps Members Fall in Love in Less Than Two Weeks

By Nurudeen Adebayo

A viral video shared on TikTok by user @gold_jenni1 has sparked discussions about love in unexpected places, as it depicts two National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members allegedly falling for each other within a remarkably short time frame of less than two weeks at the NYSC orientation camp. In the footage, the male corper can be seen arranging the socks and shoes of the female corper, seemingly unaware that they were being recorded. @gold_jenni1, who

shared the video, claimed that the corps members had already developed romantic feelings for each other in such a short period. The post garnered various reactions from social media users. Sonrise commented, suggesting that the male corper might still be trying to win the female corper's heart, while Clack_Diamond expressed a belief that the NYSC camp might be a final destination for relationships, adding that failure to find a life partner there

could result in perpetual singledom. Others expressed skepticism about the authenticity of such quick romances, with God's Selfie remarking on the lengths men go to in the name of love, and Amystitches suggesting that the Primary Place of Assignment (PPA) might temper the ardor. MR DANDOLLAR questioned the feasibility of falling in love during the NYSC program, while Ezi world voiced prayers for loved ones to avoid such situations.

Notably, some users injected humor into the discourse, with



Marsoflagos jokingly cautioning against potential romantic entanglements with spouses, and @uc Jackson reflecting on the contrast between NYSC camp romances and activities in educational institutions. @james Bwala's query

encapsulated a prevalent sentiment, questioning the seemingly accelerated pace of love within the confines of the NYSC camp. The video has ignited a conversation about the dynamics of relationships in unique

environments like the NYSC orientation camp, where individuals from diverse backgrounds come together for a common cause, often leading to unexpected connections and bonds.



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Lady Ends Relationship Over Boyfriend's Obsession with Wizkid

By Nurudeen Adebayo

A young woman has taken to social media to narrate her frustration as she ends her relationship due to her boyfriend's excessive obsession with music star Wizkid, amidst the ongoing beef between Wizkid and fellow artist Davido.

The unidentified lady's plight came to light through a post shared by Famousblogng on Instagram, where she revealed her grievances in a WhatsApp direct message.

According to her account, her 27-year-old boyfriend had



become consumed with posting about Wizkid, affectionately referring to him as "Popsy," a nickname popular among the music star's fans.

The lady expressed bewilderment at her boyfriend's behavior, questioning why he would idolize Wizkid when he has a father of his own at home.

The frustration reached a tipping point for the lady, as she recounted how her boyfriend would derail serious conversations to talk about Wizkid. She

expressed her exasperation, stating, "I just broke up with my boyfriend or I should say ex now and I pray I don't go back to him. I can't just imagine

being with someone so stupid."

Describing her boyfriend's behavior as "insane," she lamented the incessant posts and references to Wizkid, highlighting moments where he would express a desire to emulate the music star, citing a dislike for stress and aspirations to be like his "poppy."

The lady's decision to end the relationship underscores the impact of celebrity culture and fan obsession on personal relationships.

As her story gains traction on social media, it sparks discussions about boundaries, individual identity, and the influence of popular culture on romantic dynamics.



Dayo Amusa Advises Parents Against Depleting Life Savings

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Nigerian actress Dayo Amusa has sparked debate on social media after sharing insightful parenting advice, cautioning parents against using all their life savings to cater for their children.

Taking to her Instagram page, where she commands a significant following, Amusa addressed the common practice of parents prioritizing their children's needs at the expense of their own



well-being.

She emphasized the importance of not solely focusing on upgrading one's children but also investing in personal growth and future planning.

In her candid message, she urged parents to avoid the pitfall of raising children with their entire life savings, as this could lead to a disconnect between generations when children achieve success and perceive themselves as being on a different level from their parents.

Amusa highlighted the

potential regret that can arise in old age when children, who have been raised abroad or distant from their parents, fail to prioritize spending quality time with their aging parents.

She shared a poignant anecdote about an uncle who passed away without his children returning home to give him a proper burial, underscoring the importance of intentional planning for one's golden years.

The actress stressed that life's fulfillment

extends beyond monetary achievements and emphasized the significance of nurturing relationships with grown children and grandchildren.

Amusa's advice resonated with many, prompting reflection on the balance between parental responsibilities and self-care. She encouraged parents to consider their own needs in the equation of life and reminded them that their well-being matters just as much as their children's.

A man in his mid-30s, identified as Baale or Radical has reportedly committed suicide after he was issued a quit notice from his apartment for not being able to pay his annual rent of N35,000, which was increased to N60,000.

The deceased left behind his wife and four children.

According to reports, Baale, who lived in a room apartment on Moshalashi Road, Egan, in Igando area died on Sunday night after drinking a poisonous substance suspected to be an insecticide.

A source said the deceased had reportedly told his wife that she would soon cry because of his inability to pay for their house rent.

Man commmits suicide over rent increment

"He had had an altercation with his wife after his landlord issued a quit notice to him for not meeting up with the increased rent of N60,000 for their one-room apartment.

"The rent was initially N35,000, and he struggled to pay it. This made him tell his wife that she may lose him soon as pressure is mounting up for him already.

"He came home from Iba yesterday where he went to chill with his friends only for him to call a young man (name withheld)

he would commit suicide with the bottle of insecticide he was holding. The young man immediately ran to his wife after luring him to stop, and they all called for help.

"Before they could return to where he was, he had already taken the substance and was given antidotes to make sure that he was stable and taken to hospital for proper treatment.

"They got a bus at arrival to the hospital at 11 pm, he was confirmed dead," the source stated.



Bonu Assures Full Commitment To Developing Theatre Industry

A Member of Lagos State House of Assembly Badagry Constituency I who also doubles as the Chairman House Committee on Tourism, Hon. Solomon Bonu (SSB) has joined others to celebrate 2024 World Theatre Day.

The theme for the year's commemoration of the Day focused on 'Theatre and Culture of Peace.'

As the Chairman, Lagos State House Committee on Tourism, Arts and Culture, Bonu assured all stakeholders of his full commitment to developing the industry.

He joined the British

Deputy High Commissioner in Lagos, Mr. Jonny Baxter In the celebration mood.

Also in attendance was the Special Adviser to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tourism, Art and Culture Mr. Idris Aregbe.

Speaking on Wednesday evening during the celebration of the 2024 World Theatre Day, Aregbe said that Lagos would intensify effort in ensuring that more attention is given to arts, theatre and culture in the state.

He added that he was delighted that the younger generation of artistes were carried along in the development of arts and culture.

According to him : "Lagos tourism is rising; we will continue to do our best. Our government is interested in tourism and arts of our people.

"We need to do more, increase the conversation to let the world know that Lagos has a lot to offer in the theatre industry. We are intensifying the scope, that is why we have different stakeholders here with us."

The day was celebrated with energetic display of various theatrical performances, dances and music, by students in commemoration of the 2024 World Theatre Day.



Raji Calls for Service and Philanthropy

By Mohammed Adekola

broader community.

Member of the House of Representatives and Chairman of the House Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Rep. Wale Raji warmly welcomed the new National Executive Members of the Epe Grammar School Old Students Association (EGOSA) to a strategic gathering. The assembly, far from being just a reunion, served as a platform for strategic discussions on the enduring significance of service to the school and the

Wale Raji emphasized the pivotal role executive members should play in spearheading meaningful change within the association and wider society. He commended the efforts of the executive members thus far and urged them to intensify their commitment to serving the association and alma mater. During the interactive session, the Executive members deliberated on various initiatives aimed at enhancing the welfare of the association and giving back to their alma



mater. Ideas were exchanged, with a keen focus on sustainability and tangible impact. The team expressed heartfelt appreciation to the House of Representative Member for his gracious hosting and unwavering

dedication to giving back. Mrs. Alade-Raji highlighted Raji's instrumental role in the modernization of Epe Grammar School and praised his broader contributions to Epe Federal Constituency.

She also called for enhanced collaboration between the MHR and the Old Students' Association to further advance the school's development. Rep. Raji underscored the imperative for Executives Members to

lead by example and champion a culture of continuous service. He emphasized the profound impact such service could have on current students and the wider community. Drawing from his own experiences, Rep. Raji encouraged executive members to leverage their resources and networks for the collective good. Expressing his unwavering commitment to service, Raji reaffirmed his belief that giving back and serving humanity are acts of devotion. He pledged to persist in his efforts to drive sustainable projects across Epe Federal Constituency, ensuring a brighter future for all.

EPWA Empowers Women with Sewing and Grinding Machines

By Mohammed Adekola

Epe Professional Women Association (EPWA), distributes sewing machines and grinding machines to support women in Epe Division, which is an annual empowerment. Mrs. Opeoluwa Balogun, the EPWA president, encouraged the beneficiaries to make the most out of the sewing machines and grinding machines provided. She emphasized that these tools could be

utilized to create sustainable livelihoods. The EPWA project committee, consisting of notable members worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the program is achieved. Member of the Lagos State House of Assembly representing Epe Constituency 1, Hon. Abiodun Tobun served as the Chairman of the

occasion. The occasion also had the presence of esteemed guests of honor, including Hon. Lanre Ogundipe and Alhaja Anifowose Dengel. The EPWA's initiative to empower women in the Epe Division has been met with praise and appreciation from the beneficiaries. The association's commitment to uplifting the community and supporting women's economic independence is commendable.



How I started tech-driven inDrive - Tomsky

The Founder and CEO of the global private setup commercial transport, inDrive, Arsen Tomsky, has revealed the genesis of the establishment of the startup.

According to him, it was founded to break the monopolised unfair price collusion of taxi companies in his community.

He explained this in an exclusive documentary shown to the journalists in Lagos, offering the audience a rare glimpse into the heart and soul of the company, with never-before-seen footage and candid stories from the individuals at inDrive's roots.

Far from being a run-of-the-mill corporate film, the narrative delved into the effect of positive impact, illustrating how inDrive's initiatives have rippled through communities, creating waves of change that extend far beyond their initial touchpoints.

"In the frozen Yakutsk winter, a group of people band together against the unfair price collusion of taxi companies that leaves people stranded in the cold. One of them starts a social media group where people can request and offer rides, negotiating prices on their own terms.

"It's a simple enough idea, but it carries the potential to be revolutionary. From this frozen seed, a collective stance against injustice, inDrive takes root. Today, the company has grown to become the world's second largest ride-hailing app, operating in over 700 cities in 46 countries, fuelled by deep-seated ideals and ambitions that extend far beyond profit.

"inDrive wants to reimagine capitalism, no

less: to put people back in control, restore their freedom to choose, and so make their lives better.

"Among the heartwarming tales shared, the film follows the journey of Obadiah, a Nigerian boy once enveloped in the despair of his surroundings. inDrive's Beginit initiative is now paving the way for a brighter future for him and many others," Tomsky said.

Reflecting on the film and its message, the inDrive CEO said: "We should focus on the path, on the journey. And if you do something important for you, that is very meaningful for you, and you develop an external environment during that journey, you are getting more and more with each

step. And that is something which nobody can take from you. Even if you don't reach a peak, you will have something available to you."

The production is directed by Lagos/Nairobi-based, Emmy Award winner, Dan McCain, and Greek producer and editor Theo Papadoulakis.

Commenting, McCain said: "In making this film with inDrive, we hope to honor the resilience and determination of individuals whose dreams lead to something profound. It's a privilege to be part of a multi-country international production, collaborating with other talented directors, where we weave together inspiring narratives that add to the epic tale of human potential."



Arsen Tomsky

NIN-SIM linkage: MTN Deactivates 8.6M Lines

No fewer than 8.6 million MTN network users have been barred from using their SIM cards for refusing to link their SIMs with their National Identification Number (NIN) following the directives by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC). This was disclosed by the company in its first quarter (Q1) 2024 financial report, noting that this impacted its business in the quarter.

However, to provide more time for the subscribers with less than five lines linked to an unverified NIN to complete the

necessary verification exercise, MTN disclosed that the NCC has extended the 15 April deadline to 31 July 2024.

According to MTN, the lines that have been fully barred are those of subscribers who did not submit their NIN and those with more than five lines linked to an unverified NIN.

Highlighting the impact of the NIN-SIM linkage exercise and the regulatory directive, MTN Nigeria's CEO, Karl Toriola, said: "During the quarter, we also continued to manage the effects on our business of the industry-wide directive of the Nigerian

Communications Commission (NCC) for a full barring of subscriber lines not linked to their National Identity Number (NIN) – the NIN-SIM directive.

"This impacted the development of our user base across all of our key business units (voice, data, and fintech) in Q1 2024.

"Although we had to fully bar 8.6 million subscribers in line with the directive, we minimised the net effect of the barred subscribers, and our total number of subscribers only decreased by 2 million in Q1, closing with a total of 77.7 million subscribers."

Toriola said this demonstrated the

effectiveness of the company's customer value management (CVM) initiatives, which helped it to retain affected customers and reduce churn, as well as to drive gross connections.

Meanwhile, the company also reported a decline in its data subscribers in the quarter under review. According to the MTN's CEO, active data subscribers declined marginally by approximately 78,000 to 44.5 million.

"Notwithstanding these headwinds, we recorded increased activity within the base, with voice traffic rising by 5.1% and data traffic by

40.6%.

"This is a result of the consistent growth in demand for data and voice, supported by our attractive offers to customers and continuous investment in network quality and coverage," Toriola stated.

Data from the NCC show that total active mobile subscriptions in Nigeria across the networks of MTN, Airtel, Globacom and 9mobile, which stood at 224.4 million in December 2023 had declined to 219 million as of March 2024 as all the telecom operators implemented the policy on the mandatory NIN-SIM linkage.

Qualcomm announces shortlisted startups for Qualcomm Make in Africa 2024

Qualcomm Incorporated has announced the shortlisted startups for Qualcomm Make in Africa 2024, as well as the winner of the 2023 Wireless Reach Social Impact Fund.

The Qualcomm Africa Innovation Platform, now in its second year, aims to work with and support the development of Africa's emerging technology ecosystem by providing mentorship, education, and training programs with a focus on 5G, Edge-AI/ML, Compute, and IoT.

This year, Qualcomm received an overwhelming response, with approximately 250 applications from 30 countries.

Speaking, the Secretary General, African Telecommunications Union (ATU), John Omo, said: "As the first initiative of its kind in Africa, Qualcomm Make in Africa is an equity-free mentorship program that identifies promising early-stage startups keen on applying advanced connectivity and processing technologies such as 5G, Edge-AI/ML, Compute, and IoT to innovative end-to-end systems solutions, including hardware. These startups have demonstrated



exceptional potential in applying advanced connectivity and processing technologies to innovative end-to-end systems solutions. The selected startups will receive free mentorship, business coaching, access to engineering consultation for product development, and guidance on protecting intellectual property.

"Qualcomm is also proud to announce the awardee of the 2023 Wireless Reach Social Impact Fund. This fund, provided by Qualcomm through its Qualcomm® Wireless Reach™ Initiative, aims to support startups in scaling their societal

and market impact. Ecorich Solutions Limited, a female-founded organisation based in Nairobi, Kenya, will be awarded funding to help scale the impact of their smart organic food composter. Wireless Reach funding will support Ecorich to address the dual challenge of organic waste management and the need for sustainable agricultural practices, with the goal of reducing environmental pollution, improving crop yields for farmers, and mitigating waste-related health risks for communities. The other nine startups from the 2023 cohort will also receive

valuable stipends to continue fueling their growth. These startups have showcased innovative uses of wireless technology to address pressing needs in their communities.

"In addition, Qualcomm is excited to highlight the progress of the L2Pro Africa IP e-learning Platform, a free online training program designed to empower startups, SMEs, and researchers in Africa to protect, secure, and maximize their innovations. This program has been created in collaboration with Adams and Adams, Africa's leading intellectual property (IP) law firm. The

education content has been updated with individual filing procedures for patents, industrial designs, and trademarks in the countries of Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana, Rwanda and within the two African patent organizations, ARIPO and OAPI. These step-by-step descriptions of per-country filing requirements empower inventors to interact effectively with IP professionals such as an IP attorney and their respective IP offices.

"I am thrilled with the overwhelming response to the Africa Innovation Platform this year," said Alex Rogers, President, QTL & Global Affairs,

Qualcomm Incorporated. "The quality and diversity of the applications received reflect the immense talent and potential within Africa's technology ecosystem. We are excited to work with the shortlisted startups and provide them with the necessary resources and support to drive innovation and create a positive impact in their communities."

"We applaud Qualcomm for launching the second year of its Innovate in Africa Platform, which not only equips the upcoming generation of African entrepreneurs with expertise in pivotal areas like AI/ML, healthcare, agri-tech, smart cities, and communications but also empowers them to safeguard their intellectual property through the complimentary L2Pro Africa program." Omo emphasised that the ATU remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship across the continent. "Our youth innovation programme, among other initiatives, plays a crucial role in cultivating the talents and aspirations of Africa's young visionaries. We are ready to collaborate with additional partners to realise this objective," he said.

Salawu Highlights Roads To Undergo Reconstruction

By Saheed Afolabi



The chairman of Somolu LG, Abdulhamed Salawu has earmarked roads across the community that will undergo reconstruction in earnest.

The Jabu close is wearing a new look as the completion of the project will ease commuters and residents in the community. In addition to road

construction, efforts are intensifying on several other fronts, including the completion of Ibrahim Alli Street, Isaac John Street, Oyebajo Street, and Kalejaiye Street.

These projects, characterized by interlock stones and covered drainage systems, reflect the local government's commitment to modernizing and upgrading the

infrastructure network within Somolu. As a result of these concerted efforts, Somolu is rapidly transforming from a Lagos suburb into a bustling business hub. Residents have expressed their

appreciation for the positive changes witnessed under the council boss recognizing his role in reshaping the perception and trajectory of Somolu's development.

ALIMOSHO

Adigun Meets Alimosho Stakeholders Over Lagos NYCN Top Seat

Kehinde Adeleye

Engr. Ibrahim Adigun, a candidate seeking the chairmanship of the National Youth Council of Nigeria's Lagos state chapter, held consultations with the youth body's leaders and stakeholders on Sunday in Alimosho Local Government Area.

In order to communicate his ambitious intentions for the youth structure with the appropriate stakeholders, Adigun continued his consultation visit by meeting with the leaders, which included the current coordinators across the local branches under the LGA and other stakeholders.

Adigun, who was warmly welcomed to the event, thanked his host for providing them with what he called a fantastic opportunity to meet.

The current NYCN coordinator for the Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye local branch delivered an address in which he outlined his P3 Agenda and his goals for the youth council.

Adigun, a distinguished Lagos State University alumnus and former speaker of the Students Parliamentary Council (SPC) at the university, outlined his plans for enhancing youth positive participation in social activities and sustainably addressing urgent issues like talent



discovery, unemployment, and skills development. He also stressed the need for improved inclusivity and empowerment programs catered to the needs of young people in Lagos.

Adigun recalled his past involvement in youth affairs, mentioning that he chaired the planning committee for the first Youth and Governance Symposium, which drew in attendance of over 3,000 people, including dignitaries and government officials from Lagos State and beyond, ahead of the 2023 general election.

He talked about how the inaugural Plaudit award ceremony, which honored previous and present state-wide youth body leaders for well-earned celebration, was successfully planned and carried out.

Adigun highlighted a few of his accomplishments in his

local branch, including the development of a web portal, an ICT empowerment program for girls, and a quarterly breakfast meeting to discuss and provide long-term solutions to social issues within the council area.

He assured that these and more will be replicated at the state level when elected.

He reiterated that his aspiration was borne out of his desire to ensure that the state chapter remains a pacesetter and model for others across the federation by ensuring professionalism in its activities, helping the youth to be productive, and ensuring effective media promotion of its activities for transparency and accountability.

On their part, the leaders and coordinators took turns to commend Adigun for his great plans for the youth body as they offered advice, prayers as well as support for his anticipated emergence.

Somolu LG Boss Tasks Contractors To Hasten Completion Of Council Secretariat

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Somolu Local Government, Abdulhamed Salawu has charged the contractors in charge of the construction of the new council secretariat to ensure completion of the edifice at the due date. Mr Salawu led a

thorough inspection of the ongoing construction at the Somolu Local Government Administrative Complex. Accompanied by his team meticulously assessed the progress and quality of the work.

During the inspection, Salawu stressed the need to expedite the finishing process while upholding high standards, particularly given that over 80 percent of the complex's frontage is adorned with mirrored glass surfaces. He emphasized the importance of ensuring the best aesthetic for the significant edifice, reflecting the community's pride and aspirations.

Addressing the contractors, the council boss reaffirmed the local government's dedication to excellence and timely completion. He urged them to maintain a keen focus on detail and strictly adhere to established standards throughout the construction phase.



Group Gives Financial Support To 90 Nursing Mothers in Oshodi/Isolo Constituency II

Kehinde Adeleye

Members of the Constituency Forum in Oshodi/Isolo constituency II are conducting an outreach program to offer assistance to nursing mothers, patients, and vulnerable individuals in the Isolo and Ejigbo communities. Echonews reports that over 90 people have received financial support

as part of this initiative, according to the media office of the group. It said " The initiative aimed to alleviate financial burdens and promote well-being within the communities. Mrs. Hassan, the Nurse in charge, expressed gratitude for the gesture displayed by the Constituency Forum. She acknowledged the impact of the initiative on

the patient's well-being and assured the team of the health centre's commitment to delivering quality services to the residents of Ejigbo LCDA and the constituency as a whole. The outreach project achieved its goal of providing financial support to each beneficiaries, bringing joy to the beneficiaries. The positive feedback from Mrs Hassan and the

appreciation shown by the community members underscored the significance of such initiatives in promoting community welfare and fostering a sense of solidarity within the constituency. " The Constituency Forum remains committed to serving the needs of the Isolo and Ejigbo communities. Future outreach projects will

continue to focus on addressing key issues and improving the well-being of residents. Echonews reports that the group said through collaborative efforts and community engagement, the Forum endeavours to create positive change and uplift the lives of all constituents. " The outreach project to medical facilities in Isolo and Ejigbo was a testament

to the Constituency Forum's dedication to serving the community. By providing support to those in need, the Forum demonstrated its commitment to making a tangible difference in the lives of constituents. Moving forward, similar initiatives will be pursued to further enhance the welfare and happiness of residents in the constituency.

The Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local government, Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, is determined to solve the water problem within areas in the local government and ensure residents have easy access to clean water. Echonews reports that he has started drilling boreholes at specific locations including Mabayoje, Aberuagba, and Osho streets, as well as Alasia Compound within the local government.

These projects aim to address the water scarcity experienced by

Communities in Oshodi -Isolo LG Get Pipe Borne Water

residents and will bring relief by saving them the trouble and expenses of acquiring water. This initiative, which includes the digging of a total of 10 boreholes to complement the previous 19, has been well received by the community. Residents, like Mrs. Rokibat Oyedele from Alasia Compound, appreciate the

chairman's efforts, acknowledging the significant improvement it will bring in easing their access to water. The Chairman has assured continuous efforts in providing essential infrastructure to enhance the living standards of the residents, evident in his various ongoing projects within the council area.



Ahmed Reaffirms Dedication To Scholarship Awards In Agege

The representative for Agege Federal Constituency in the Green Chamber, Dr. Wale Ahmed has reaffirmed his dedication to providing scholarship opportunities to the top performers in the 2024 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Exams from Agege. Echonews has earlier reported that the

lawmaker promised to give out free UTME Forms to applicants in Agege. Following the release of the UTME results, the lawmaker's office is prepared to welcome the best candidates from all the different wards in Agege. The Hon Dr. Wale Ahmed's Scholarship Scheme is a program designed to assist 13 deserving students

from each of the 13 wards in Agege with their university fees, and it is supported by the leadership of the Lagos State House of Assembly Speaker, RT Hon Mudashiru Obasa, and the APC Party in Agege. The Scheme, according to the sponsor, Dr Wale Ahmed will be based on merit. As the criteria for prospective

beneficiaries are highlighted as follows; 1, Must be an Agege resident.

2, Must have sat for year 2024 JAMB Examinations. 3, Must have been

offered Admission into any public owned higher institution of learning. 4, Must possess qualifying O'Levels results. 5, Must obtain and submit an application Form.



Notayo's Cup: Expect Exciting opportunities - Lucky Notayo

The founder of Notayo's Cup, Lucky Notayo has disclosed that exciting opportunities await the participating clubs of this year's edition. The tournament which came into existence three years ago has produced top class players who have moved up the ladder to top teams in the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL), while some have pursued greener pastures outside the country. Speaking to ECHONEWS exclusively, Notayo said it's the love and passion for the game which made him sponsor the tournament. The UK based professional player assured the

participating clubs of exciting spices and loads of opportunities which has been lined up for the tournament to be staged in Oshodi.

"It's the love and passion I have for the game that made me sponsor the Notayo's Cup," he said.

"That exactly I can't reveal for now but be well assured that we have new spices that have been put in place for this

year's edition."

Despite naming the tournament in his name, he believes the competition is about the grassroots and to give the teams the necessary exposure with healthy competition to demonstrate their practices in training.

"Notayo's Cup is absolutely about the grassroots teams, it is an opportunity for the grassroots teams to showcase their talents. Based on my knowledge, lots of these teams only train without playing any tournaments, competitions or league to demonstrate what they have been practicing.

By Saheed Afolabi



"To be honest with you, it is very hard now to market a player from grassroots level to abroad am assuring you that the exceptional players have chances to be scouted for by the Nigeria Premier league clubs."

Zamadek FA Battles HB Utility In JOF U-13 Cup Final

By Saheed Afolabi



Zamadek FA will trade tackles with HB Utility in the JOF U-13 Cup Final slated to hold on Sunday, May 12 at Unilag Sports Complex. The director of strategic support services, JOF Nigeria Limited, Adeyinka Adetunji said the tournament was a platform for young footballers under the age of 13 to showcase their skills, noting that the best four teams would be rewarded financially during the

final ceremony. Adetunji added that the champions would go home with the sum of N750,000 with a giant trophy, first runner up would pocket N500,000, while third and fourth positions would receive N350,000 and N250,000 respectively.

There are monetary rewards for individual players which includes the highest goalscorer, Most Valuable Player (MVP)

and best goalkeeper with the sum of N25,000 each.

Adetunji noted that the tournament has emerged as a catalyst for social cohesion and community engagement for the youths and insisted that the tournament has witnessed participation from hundreds of aspiring players, unveiling hidden gems, promoting sportsmanship and fair play.

Nigerian Woman Wins N48 Million in Sports Bet with N10,000 Stake

By Nurudeen Adebayo

A Nigerian woman has reportedly hit the jackpot, winning a staggering sum of N48 million in a sports bet after placing a mere N10,000 wager. A captivating video capturing her ecstatic reaction to her win has been making rounds on social media platforms. In the video shared on TikTok by @officialperfect4, the woman can be seen jubilantly raising chairs in celebration upon hearing the life-

changing news.

The caption accompanying the video reads, "She use 10,000 and win 48 million God is great." Social media users were quick to react to the remarkable win. @itz.blessing expressed hopes that the newfound fortune would be utilized for positive endeavors, while Oluchi Sunday Ani humorously hinted at deleting betting apps after witnessing such a windfall.

Ben Princess Juddy extended

congratulations to the lucky winner, expressing a desire to share in her good fortune, even as Neri smurtt proposed a practical allocation of the winnings, suggesting investments in accommodations, a car, and fuel. Charlotte J. Smith, in a moment of contemplation, highlighted the fragility of the winning ticket, prompting consideration of what could have been if it were accidentally damaged.



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